



Natural Resources Conservation Service
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PENNSYLVANIA BULLETIN NO. PA190-8-4

SUBJECT: Pennsylvania Wildlife Priorities on Working Lands

Purpose. To Announce the Wildlife Priorities for NRCS in Pennsylvania

Expiration Date. September 30, 2008

ANNOUNCEMENT: Fourteen species of birds are included in Pennsylvania NRCS's ongoing Rapid Watershed Assessment (see attached list). From those fourteen species, eight have been identified in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Game Commission as those most likely to occur on and be benefited by improved habitat on Working Lands. This group of eight birds will be considered the priority Wildlife Concerns for NRCS in Pennsylvania until the expiration of the current strategic plan on September 30, 2010.

Background: The current National Strategic Plan includes an Outcome defined as "Working lands and waters provide habitat for diverse and healthy wildlife, aquatic species, and plant communities". The Objective for this Outcome identifies improving and managing essential habitat to benefit at-risk and declining species. This strategic Objective is summarized in the Progress Reporting System as "Non-federal land with conservation applied to improve fish and wildlife habitat quality".

At-risk and declining species include all species listed by federal or state agencies as threatened, endangered, or candidates for listing. At-risk and declining species also includes Species of Concern. Species of Concern are identified by state agencies. Pennsylvania's list of Species of Concern ("Conservation Concern") may be viewed at:

<http://www.pgc.state.pa.us/pgc/cwp/view.asp?a=496&q=161647>

Many NRCS national policies and programs encourage improving habitat for Species of Concern in order to reduce the future likelihood that these species may become candidates for listing as threatened or endangered. Also, improving habitat for Species of Concern does not require as much coordination with other agencies as does improving habitat for species already listed as threatened or endangered.

Many of the conservation practices planned and applied in Pennsylvania improve aquatic habitats by improving water quality, and occasionally improvements in in-stream habitat are planned and applied. Wetland conservation practices planned and applied also benefit both aquatic and terrestrial species, including plants. This bulletin specifically identifies the wildlife priorities for benefiting terrestrial



PA190-8-4

upland at-risk and declining species. This priority is being identified because this is the area where routine NRCS activities in Pennsylvania have the greatest opportunity to improve habitat for at-risk and declining species.

/s/ William Bowers, Acting

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State Conservationist

DIST: AO

Attachment: Pennsylvania Wildlife Action Plan, Birds Associated with Agricultural Landscapes